



# Intersecting Identities

**Prepared for:**  
Office of the Ohio Public Defender



# What is Intersectionality?

a prism to see the interactive effects of various forms of discrimination and disempowerment. — seeing that the overlapping vulnerabilities created by these systems actually create specific kinds of challenges.

# In Dr. Crenshaw's Words



"...a problematic consequence of the tendency to treat race and gender as mutually exclusive categories of experience and analysis.' In this talk, I want to examine how this tendency is perpetuated by a single-axis framework that is dominant in antidiscrimination law and that is also reflected in feminist theory and antiracist politics."

Crenshaw, Kimberle, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," University of Chicago Legal Forum: Vol. 1989: Iss. 1, Article 8.

Available at: <http://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/uclf/vol1989/iss1/8>

# What is Inequality?

Inequality is lack of access to legal equality, lived equality or both.

Lack of access can be attributable to explicit or implicit exclusion from those laws or cultural conditions that provide full access to equality.

People who experience a chronic lack of access to legal and lived equality live at the margins of society and experience trauma as a result

When we fail to recognize the intersection of inequalities (which necessitates acknowledging the intersection of identities) we **flatten** people and their experiences.

Constant flattening is traumatizing.

Reduction of individuals X systemic intractability = exponential impact on already marginalized people